

Tales for Very Picky Eaters

- **Bibliographic information:** author: Josh Schneider. Clarion Books 2011
- **Summary:** James, a young boy, is a very picky eater. He does not like to eat broccoli, oatmeal, or eggs, among other foods. However, James' father has clever ways to finagle James into eating these foods.
- **Awards:** 2012 Winner of the Theodor Seuss Geisel Award
- **Book Review**
 - "Eager and picky eaters alike will enjoy the wordplay and outrageous situations, which create humor from a familiar source of family tension."—Booklist
 - "The sophisticated yet silly humor will appeal to new readers wanting something a little different. . . . A perfect segue into chapter books, this easy reader is sure to be a crowd pleaser." —School Library Journal
 - i. Both Reviews found on Amazon at: http://www.amazon.com/Tales-Very-Picky-Eaters-Schneider/dp/0547149565/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1364343262&sr=1-1&keywords=tales+for+very+picky+eaters
- **Author's webpage:**
<http://www.hmhbooks.com/hmh/site/hmhbooks/authordetails?authorName=Josh%20Schneider>
- **Discussion Questions:**
 - **Pre-reading questions**
 - a. What foods do you like?
 - b. What foods do you not like/dislike?
 - c. What does it mean to be picky?
 - **Questions during reading**
 - a. Would you have eaten the dirt?
 - b. What do you think the oatmeal would have felt like?
 - c. Would it be possible to have soft bones, like it showed James having if he did not drink milk?
 - **Post-reading questions**
 - a. Do you think James would have tried the eggs if his dad had not convinced him to try the other food?
 - b. Have your parents ever told you stories to get you to eat your food?
 - c. After reading this story, are you more willing to try new foods or give ones you don't like another chance?
- **Activities**
 - **Reading/oral language**

Have students write a speech about either their favorite or least favorite food, with at least 3 reasons why it is their favorite or least favorite.
 - **Writing**

Students shall think of one of their least favorite foods and then write a creative story that would convince someone to eat it.

- **Science:**

Students will differentiate between the food groups in the story

- **Cooking Food/ Oral Language**

Students shall prepare a demonstrative speech showing how to make a type of food they like and would like their peers to try.

- **Related Books:**

- *I Will Never Not Ever Eat a Tomato* by Lauren Child
- *Good Enough to Eat: A Kid's Guide to Food and Nutrition* by Lizzy Rockwell
- *Gregory, the Terrible Eater* by Michell Sharmat, Illustrated by Jose Aruego and Ariane Dewey

- **Other Books written by the author:**

- *You'll Be Sorry*
- *The Meanest Birthday Girl*
- *Bedtime Monsters*

- **Related Websites:**

- http://www.neatsolutions.com/ChildrensBooks/PickyEaters/PickyEaters_01.html
This webpage shows many other books with the theme of picky eaters, as well as healthy living tips.
- <http://rodeenliterary.com/writer-jschneider.html>
Rodeen Literary Management shares more information about the author, Josh Schneider.
- http://www.childrensrecipes.com/childrens_recipes_index.htm
Cooking with Kids has many recipes that are child friendly. These could also give students ideas for their demonstrative speech.
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uFk7F8rgMqo>
Josh Schneider accepting the Geisel award